

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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EA/ROC - MR. LEVIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T STATE 046680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: EXPORT/CO-PRODUCTION OF PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSELS

1. GRUMMAN HAS REQUESTED AN ADVISORY OPINION ON THE EXPORT AND/OR CO-PRODUCTION IN THE ROC OF FLAGSTAFF MARK II PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSELS. THE COMPANY HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE ROC NAVY (ADMIRAL CHOH, DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS AND PLANNING) A POSSIBLE 10-BOAT PURCHASE WITH THE FIRST TWO BOATS BEING PRODUCED HERE BY GRUMMAN AND CO-PRODUCTION IN TAIWAN OF THE REMAINING EIGHT BOATS. THIS WOULD BE A COMMERCIAL, NOT AN FMS SALE.

2. THE FLAGSTAFF MARK II IS A SMALL COASTAL PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSEL WHICH CAN BE ADAPTED TO A NUMBER OF MISSIONS INCLUDING SURVEILLANCE, SEARCH AND RESCUE, ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE, ANTI-AIRCRAFT WARFARE, SURFACE WARFARE AND INTERDICTION AND TROOP TRANSPORT. IT CAN BE EQUIPPED WITH CANNONS, MISSILES OR TORPEDOES.

3. THE VESSEL HAS THE SAME PLATFORM AS THE OLDER US
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NAVY FLAGSTAFF PGH-1, BUT INCREASED PAYLOAD AND RANGE, IMPROVED SEA-KEEPING AND IMPROVED RELIABILITY. (THE US NAVY DOES NOT PLAN TO PURCHASE THE FLAGSTAFF MARK II). WITH A NORMAL CREW OF 14 AND MILITARY PAYLOAD OF 13.6

MT, THE FLAGSTAFF MARK II OPERATING ON FOILS HAS A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 52 KNOTS, A SPEED RANGE OF 35-48 KNOTS AND A RANGE OF 940 NMI AT 42 KNOTS. ITS HULLBORNE RANGE IS 3200 NMI AT 8 KNOTS. THE VESSEL IS DESIGNED FOR SEA STATE 4-5 AND HAS A FULL LOAD DISPLACEMENT OF 84.8 MT.

4. AFTER THE GO AHEAD, DESIGN AND LEADBOAT CONSTRUCTION OF TWO VESSELS BY GRUMMAN WOULD REQUIRE 24 TO 30 MONTHS. PILOT CONSTRUCTION BY THE ROC OF 2-4 BOATS WOULD THEN BEGIN AND WOULD REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 18 MONTHS BEFORE PRODUCTION.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS ON THE GRUMMAN PROPOSAL.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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